

New claims:

1. A thixotropic agent comprising as components
5 from 0.1 to 30% by weight of at least one ethylene terpolymer wax synthesized from

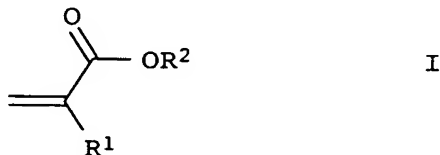
10 from 80 to 99.9% by weight of ethylene,

from 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least two comonomers comprising

15 as first comonomer from 1 to 99% by weight of at least one C₃-C₁₂ alkenecarboxylic acid and

as second comonomer from 99 to 1% by weight of at least one ester of the formula I

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where R¹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, and C₆-C₁₄ aryl

30 and R² is selected from C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, and C₆-C₁₄ aryl,

from 5 to 70% by weight of at least one first solvent incompatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax, and

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from 5 to 85% by weight of at least one solvent compatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax and with said first solvent(s).

40 2. A thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first comonomer is acrylic acid.

3. A thixotropic agent as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, wherein R¹ is hydrogen or methyl and R² is methyl in
45 formula I.

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4. A thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the ethylene copolymer wax is synthesized from

from 90 to 99% by weight of ethylene and from 10 to 1% by weight of at least two comonomers comprising

from 30 to 70% by weight of at least one C₃-C₁₂ alkenecarboxylic acid as first comonomer and

from 70 to 30% by weight of at least one ester of the formula I as second comonomer.

5. A process for preparing a thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, which comprises first dissolving the ethylene terpolymer wax in one or more solvents compatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax and then adding at least one solvent incompatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax.

6. A coating material comprising at least one thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.

7. A metallic paint comprising at least one thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.

8. A process for preparing a coating material or metallic paint by mixing in a thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.

9. A surface coated with a coating material or metallic paint comprising at least one thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.

Thixotropic agents comprising ethylene test polymer waxes

Abstract

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A process for preparing thixotropic agents comprising

from 0.1 to 30% by weight of at least one ethylene terpolymer
wax,

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from 5 to 70% by weight of at least one first solvent
incompatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax, and

from 5 to 85% by weight of at least one solvent compatible with
15 the ethylene terpolymer wax and with said first solvent(s).

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